



BRINGING WORLD AND LIFE EXPERIENCE

The cream of the crop of newly qualified teachers have been snapped up by Camberwell Girls Grammar School, with four of Melbourne's highest-scoring Diploma of education graduates taking up positions. All four have been named on the Dean's Honour List rewarding their academic excellence from their universities.

Mrs Louise Carroll, Mr James Fiford, Ms Kylie Nankervis and Mrs Jennie Spruch commenced their teaching careers at Camberwell Girls Grammar School in 2007. Having pursued careers in other fields for a number of years, they all always knew they wanted to teach, but had to wait for the right time to go back to study and gain their Dip Ed.

Louise, Kylie and Jennie all attended Monash, while James studied at the University of Melbourne.

They said the experience they gained by working in other areas has been a huge benefit in their teaching careers.

According to Louise, "It is so helpful to have world and life experience. It means you can bring so much more to the classroom. Students want to hear real life stories and anecdotes. It also meant I was able to decide that teaching was something I really wanted to do and working in the corporate world gave me the skills to deal well with the pressures and demands of teaching".

James agreed that getting real world experience, before training as a teacher was beneficial. "Working in sales helped me with my interpersonal skills and ability to relate to other people," he said. "It gave me confidence and leadership skills. The more experience that you have to draw on as a teacher, the better."

The teachers were happy to receive their university awards, but said the real reward is feeling that they are giving back to the community, after working for years in business environments.

